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Braintree & Bocking

URBAN DISTRICT

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REPORT

OF THE

ACTING

Medical Officer of Health

J. S. RANSON

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1954

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

---

W. H. Root, Printer, Halstead



**BRAINTREE and BOCKING**

# **URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

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J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

**Chief Sanitary Inspector**

S. F. BAYLEY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

**Additional Sanitary Inspector**

J. F. LEAH, M.S.I.A.

**Clerical Assistant**

H. W. CHILDS



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,

Town Hall,

Braintree.

May, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAINTREE AND BOCKING  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the health and vital statistics of the District for the year 1954.

There has been no outbreak of infectious disease and the number of cases notified has been exceptionally low.

The housing problem remains, special emphasis now being on the clearance of slum property. In an Urban District it must be many years before this can be completed, much depending on the number of Council houses becoming available for re-housing tenants.

A survey of the district will show the extent of the problem and planning should schedule those incapable of reconstruction for clearance by demolition. There will remain many small houses without some of the modern amenities. These being the only houses that can be let at low rents will remain of some value if repaired and maintained in a good state by supervision.

May I take this opportunity of thanking members of the Health Committee and the staff for the kindness and consideration that I have received during the two years that I have acted as Medical Officer of the District. It is with regret that I relinquish my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

# 1. STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

				Braintree and Bocking U.D.C.	England and Wales
Area (in acres) ... ..				6,811	
Population (Registrar General's estimate)				17,890	
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ... ..				6,032	
Rateable value ... ..				£111,597	
Sum represented by a penny rate ...				£434	
				Total Male Female	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	286	164	122	
	Illegitimate ...	18	9	9	
Still Births ...		5	3	2	
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ... ..				16.99	15.2
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.01 ... ..				17.15	
Still birth rate per 1,000 live & still births ...				16.18	24.0
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate) ...				184	
Death rate per 1,000 resident population ...				10.28	11.3
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.85 ... ..				8.73	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...				9	
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ... ..				29.60	25.5
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..				31.46	
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..				0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...				20	
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...				0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...				0	

## Deaths at Various Age Groups during 1954

(Registered and Transferred)

Age Groups			Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under one year ... ..			4	5
1 and under 2 years ... ..			—	—
2 and under 5 years ... ..			—	1
5 and under 15 years ... ..			—	1
15 and under 25 years ... ..			1	1
25 and under 35 years ... ..			2	1
35 and under 45 years ... ..			3	—
45 and under 55 years ... ..			8	2
55 and under 65 years ... ..			20	6
65 and under 75 years ... ..			41	7
75 and upwards ... ..			75	6
Totals ... ..			154	30

## Deaths from all Causes, 1954

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	4	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	13	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	17	7
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	17	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	—	4
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	15	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	6	3
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	2	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	—	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	4	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	9	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
All Causes				98	86

## 2. PREVALENCE and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in 1954:

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	4	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	32	—	—
Measles ...	7	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	4	—	—
Totals ...	49	1	—

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during 1954.

Tuberculosis—Cases Notified during 1954.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	1	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	2	—	—
10 and under 15 years	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years	—	1	—	—
20 and under 25 years	5	2	—	—
25 and under 35 years	4	1	—	—
35 and under 45 years	1	3	—	—
45 and under 55 years	—	—	—	—
55 and under 65 years	1	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	10	—	—

Of these cases 9 were of cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary	...	...	Male	—
			Female	—
Non-pulmonary	...		Male	—
			Female	—
			Total	—



Public Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Braintree.  
June, 1955

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAINTREE AND BOCKING  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the sanitary inspection of the Urban District for the year 1954.

The most significant feature of the year's work was the increase in the number of animals slaughtered in the area and requiring inspection before passing to the consumer. During the period of government control of slaughtering some sixty to sixty-five per cent. of the animals slaughtered in the Urban District were allocated to local butchers, although part of this allocation eventually went outside the district via contracts for hospitals. It was natural, therefore, to assume that with decentralisation and the re-opening of slaughterhouses in the neighbouring districts, the amount of work required of the department in this direction would not increase. This assumption has proved to be incorrect. The figures given in the report, which include only six months of decentralisation, give some indication of the extra work which has fallen on your inspectors, due no doubt to our proximity to London and other centres of high population and to the acumen of local businessmen. Perhaps I shall be forgiven for reminding you that much of this work is performed at a time when the officers should be enjoying their leisure.

Despite this extra work the administration of other aspects of our work has been of an order comparable with that of previous years and I must record the excellent work which Mr. Childs has done in helping to maintain this position.

It is a matter for regret that owing to various circumstances the unsatisfactory odour and discolouration experienced at times with the Bocking water supply has not yet been resolved.

I wish to thank members of the Council for their continued interest and support, also my staff for their hard work and loyalty and Dr. Ranson for a happy association during his term of office.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. BAYLEY.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

The public supply was obtained from the Council's deep wells at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks.

The water was chlorinated before passing into the service mains.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year was as follows:—

			Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks	...	...	2	5	7
Bocking Waterworks	...	...	Nil	4	4

A temporary breakdown in the Notley supply occurred in February and lasted for about five days. The breakdown was due to the failure of the submersible pump at a time when the reserve pump was at the makers undergoing service.

Temporary connections were made with the Braintree Rural Council's mains and water was transported in tanks and a water trailer to relieve acute shortages in certain parts of the Town. The staff of the Public Health Department carried out the chlorination of these transported supplies.

During the period of the breakdown the supply from the Bocking works together with that obtained from the Rural Council's mains enabled a supply of the order of 23 gallons per head per day to be maintained.

Further complaints of odour and discolouration from consumers on the Bocking supply and to a lesser extent from consumers on the Braintree supply were received during the year. The proposed measures to combat this problem were not ready for operation during the year under review.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the results of two samples are given as follows:—

#### **Sample from Braintree Waterworks, 18.10.54**

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate; it is normal with respect to its somewhat high but not excessive content of mineral and saline constituents. The organic quality and bacterial purity of the water are of a high standard.

These are normal results for this source, they are indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the disadvantage of the known content of fluorine being higher than desirable.

### Sample from Bocking Water in Supply, 10.5.54

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are normal and satisfactory results for the supply from the Bocking Pumping Station. The water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

### Water Consumption in the District

The Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer has kindly supplied the following information regarding the amount of water pumped during 1954:

			Gallons
Notley Road Waterworks	...	...	179,940,000
Bocking Waterworks	...	...	70,849,200
		Total	<u>250,789,200</u>

Except for periods of insufficient pressure in certain areas on occasions and during the temporary breakdown in February the supply was adequate for the present needs of the District, and represents an overall consumption of 38.4 gallons per head per day.

At present it is estimated that 17,720 persons who occupy 5,979 houses are served by public mains.

Of these approximately 102 houses with an estimated population of 310 are served by fifty standpipes, forty-four of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains, whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 53 houses with private supplies, only 38 of these being piped inside.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There was no alteration in the position at either the Braintree or Bocking Sewage Works during 1954.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse continued throughout the year in all parts of the District. This service is under the control of the Surveyor. The tip at Rifle Hill was again used for the disposal of refuse.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

### (1) Number and Nature of Inspections

During the year 1954 the following inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspections	Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act . . . . .	42	80	122
Housing—Public Health Act . . . . .	44	190	234
Other Visits—Housing Act . . . . .	109	9	118
Other Visits—Public Health Act . . . . .	359	475	834
Infectious Diseases . . . . .	15	7	22
Water Supply and Sampling . . . . .	27	29	56
Dairies and Milk Distributors . . . . .	14	7	21
Milk Sampling . . . . .	16	—	16
Food Preparing Premises including Bakehouses	130	92	222
Food Byelaws . . . . .	19	4	23
Ice Cream Premises . . . . .	12	5	17
Ice Cream Sampling . . . . .	18	—	18
Meat and Food Inspection:—			
(a) Slaughterhouses . . . . .	1581	136	1717
(b) Shops . . . . .	124	4	128
(c) Depot . . . . .	14	—	14
(d) Markets . . . . .	82	1	83
Factories Act (Power) . . . . .	16	8	24
Factories Act (Non-Power) . . . . .	2	3	5
Factories Act (Building Sites) . . . . .	44	16	60
Shops Act . . . . .	17	7	24
Drainage . . . . .	72	226	298
Smoke Abatement . . . . .	11	16	27
Overcrowding . . . . .	—	1	1
Common Lodging House . . . . .	1	—	1
Moveable and Temporary Dwellings . . . . .	23	20	43
Vermin Infestations and Pest Control . . . . .	13	19	32
Rat Infestations . . . . .	19	6	25
Knackers Yard . . . . .	19	—	19
Swimming Baths and Sampling . . . . .	29	8	37
Interviews with Owners/Builders, Etc . . . . .	92	4	96
Miscellaneous . . . . .	169	3	172
	3133	1376	4509

### (2) NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Number of Informal Notices served . . . . .	191
Number of Informal Notices complied with . . . . .	172
Number of Statutory Notices served . . . . .	23
Number of Statutory Notices complied with . . . . .	29

### (3) SANITARY DEFECTS AND NUISANCES

			Defects Etc. Found	Work Done or Abated
(a)	HOUSING			
	Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc.	...	29	22
	Other external defects	...	15	13
	Damp walls	...	4	1
	Internal defects	...	22	13
(b)	GENERAL			
	Defective W.C.'s and W.C. structures	...	25	22
	Houses with defective dustbins	...	114	111
	Vermin infested houses	...	1	1
	Vermin infested articles	...	1	1
	Contraventions of Factories Act	...	6	7
	Defects etc., in food premises	...	9	7
	Disinfection of premises following infectious disease	—	—	4
(c)	DRAINAGE			
	Choked drains and W.C.'s	...	46	47
	Defective drains	...	17	17
	Defective soil pipes or vents	...	1	1
	New drains tested and passed	...	—	5
	Old drains tested	...	—	7

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	17	5	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	96	24	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	44	60	3	—
Total ...	157	89	6	—

## II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	2	3*	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	7	—	2	—

\* Includes one from notice served in 1953.

There are thirty-six Outworkers in the District, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.



## **Smoke Abatement**

Twenty-seven visits were made to local factories and other premises in connection with atmospheric pollution.

The department made representations to two managements relating to unsatisfactory emission of smoke and the draught system at one factory was improved. Extensive alterations are contemplated at the other factory.

## **Shops Act, 1950**

Twenty-four visits were made under Section 38 of this Act.

Two applications for exemption from the provisions of subsection (2) in respect of sanitary accommodation at shops were received, but only one certificate of exemption in respect of one shop was granted. Notice to the occupier of the other premises to provide suitable sanitary conveniences was withdrawn when the premises changed ownership. The new owner subsequently provided the necessary accommodation.

## **Moveable Dwellings**

Two licencees to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were operative during the year.

Thirteen licencees were granted in respect of individual caravans for specified periods.

Forty-three visits were made by your inspectors to all the sites concerned.

## **Swimming Baths**

Two open-air swimming pools, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year. Samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination throughout the season. Field tests for available chlorine were also carried out and the filtration plants inspected in order to control the quality of water in the pools.

The samples taken were reported satisfactory.

## **Insect Pests**

Five dwelling houses, found to be lightly infested with bed bugs, were either sprayed with D.D.T. solution by Council labour or the spraying carried out under the supervision of your inspectors. In one case bedding was treated at the steam disinfecter.

One house was sprayed for fleas and the occupant assisted in the general cleansing of his premises.

The occupiers of private slaughterhouses were advised regarding fly control and the premises kept under surveillance.

Advice was also given to householders regarding ants and other pests.

## **Steam Disinfecter**

The use of the steam disinfecter at the former Isolation Hospital, Cressing Road, was continued during the year.

The plant was in operation for 7 charges, 1 for disinfection following infectious disease and 6 charges for the cleansing of bedding and clothing.

Some of this work was done for other local authorities.

## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

Four licencees to keep pet shops were renewed during the year 1954 and one new licence was granted.

## Rodent Control

The services of a full-time rodent operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50 per cent. of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The work done during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1955, was as follows:—

Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	291
Number of properties found to be infested and treated:—				
Major	...	...	...	30
Minor	...	...	...	154
Mice	...	...	...	20
Number of "block" control schemes carried out				6

Ten per cent. of the sewer manholes of both Braintree and Bocking sewers were test baited with negative results.

During the period covered by this report, your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a rechargeable basis.

Since October there has been an increase in the number of complaints of infestation received, in common with the increased infestation reported in neighbouring districts.

## HOUSING

The Council completed a further 148 houses and 20 flats during the year and 41 houses were built by private enterprise.

The following tables give a summary of action taken in connection with the inspection of houses during 1954:—

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	172
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	22
(3) Number of houses, exclusive of those referred to under subsection (2), found to be unfit for human habitation but capable of repair	...	44

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE:—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	36
--	-----	----

### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS:—

*Housing Act, 1936:*

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	0
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notice:		
By Owners	...	0
By Local Authority in default	...	0



### *Public Health Act, 1936:*

	(c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
	(d) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ... ..	2
4	(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	11
	(b) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings under Section 11 were accepted by the Council. ...	1

The figures in 1 (1) in the above table include 86 visits of inspection in connection with a survey not yet completed, under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In September ten unfit dwelling houses were submitted to this Council as being suitable for dealing with in two clearance areas.

### **Housing Act, 1949. Improvement Grants**

Eight houses were inspected following applications for improvement grants under the 1949 Act. In four of these, schedules of necessary repair work were prepared and sent to the applicants.

### **Legal Proceedings**

There was no recourse to court action during the year.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

### **Milk Supply**

The Council are responsible for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than dairy farms and is the licensing authority in respect of dealers and supplementary licences for Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested milk.

Eight distributors and two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	4
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	4
Dealers Licence for Pasteurised Milk ... ..	3
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk ... ..	4
Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk ... ..	1

### **Bacteriological Examination of Milk**

The following table shows the results of samples of milk submitted for the statutory tests:—

Class of Milk	Number Sampled	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Pasteurised T.T.	10	10	—	10	—
Pasteurised	6	6	—	6	—

## Ice Cream

During the year two local manufacturers of ice cream and forty-nine vendors were retailing from shops in the Urban District. All were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. In addition, vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex operated in the District.

Frequent inspections of Manufacturers' premises were made and periodic inspections of vendors' premises and vendors' vehicles were carried out.

Seventeen samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

MANUFACTURED IN DISTRICT	MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE DISTRICT
Eight in Provisional Grade I.	Four in Provisional Grade I.
One in Provisional Grade II.	Two in Provisional Grade II.
One in Provisional Grade III.	One in Provisional Grade III.
Nil in Provisional Grade IV.	Nil in Provisional Grade IV.

Two of the above samples manufactured locally at different premises, one in provisional grade I and one in provisional grade III were considered unsatisfactory on account of the bacterial content. Two samples from one manufacturer outside the district also provisionally graded I and III respectively were also unsatisfactory on account of bacterial content.

These samples were followed up.

In addition one sample of ice lolly was submitted for examination and was reported as being satisfactory.

## Meat

The Ministry of Food used two slaughterhouses in this district until the 29th June, 1954. Since the beginning of July these two slaughterhouses and three additional slaughterhouses have been licensed under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and other legislation.

Early in 1954, all the butchers in the district were interviewed and it became apparent that, with the additional slaughterhouses recommencing, sufficient slaughtering accommodation would be available to meet the needs of the district.

All the slaughterhouses were inspected before they were recommended to this Council for licensing. In some cases minor improvements were effected and, in one case, a considerable amount of work had to be carried out by the occupier before the licence was granted.

One application for the renewal of a licence in respect of a slaughterhouse was refused by this Council.

Consequent upon the return of private slaughtering it has been found that the number of animals slaughtered has more than doubled the number killed during the period of Ministry of Food control.

Meat inspection has been carried out by your inspectors and all the animals slaughtered during the twelve months were examined by them. To accomplish this has made even greater demands upon the time of your inspectors and has greatly added to the amount of time spent upon inspection during evenings and week-ends. As a considerable amount of the meat inspected is sold outside this district, this Council is left with the burden, a necessary burden, of 100 per cent inspection.

There is no organised system of ante-mortem inspection and no proper facilities exist for this purpose. There has been, however, a reduction in the number of casualty animals received for slaughter since July, no doubt these animals are going to the nearest slaughterhouses in the adjoining rural districts

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year:—

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	...	2265	316	816	4596	8650
Number Inspected	...	2265	316	816	4596	8650
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	2	1	3	5	21
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	985	551	155	206	1584
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	550	82	2	48	987
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	5981	1364	7	118	3774
Percentage affected	...	24.4	26.3	0.6	1.2	11.6
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	...	5	—	—	—	6
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	3226	—	—	—	1296
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	186	42	2	—	387
Weight in lbs. condemned	...	5933	905	30	—	3615
Percentage affected	...	8.4	13.3	0.2	—	4.5

Arrangements have been made for the carcasses and other offals of cattle found to be infected with localised cysticercus bovis to be sent for refrigeration treatment in a neighbouring town. Twenty-seven beasts were found to be so affected and sent for refrigeration.

Since July arrangements were made with the approval of the Council for the collection by a private contractor of all condemned meat and offals. All condemned carcasses and organs are stained by your inspectors and, apart from any large carcasses condemned, held in bins specially provided for the purpose by the Council at each slaughterhouse to await collection.

Condemned meat and offal is used for animal feeding by the contractor.

### Horseflesh

Your inspectors carried out the inspection of horseflesh slaughtered for sale for human consumption in the Urban District, all of which was sold outside the Council's area.

Particulars of animals slaughtered and condemnations are as follows:—

Number of horses slaughtered	...	...	...	468
Number of horses inspected	...	...	...	417
Weight of offal condemned	...	...	...	407lbs.
Weight of whole carcase and offal condemned	...	...	...	505lbs.

Five goats slaughtered for human consumption were also inspected.

## Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the district, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

	lb.		lb.
Bacon ... ..	35	Tinned Meats ...	78
Tinned Beans ...	47	Tinned Milk ...	57
Biscuits ... ..	24	Tinned Peas ...	23
Cheese ... ..	42	Poultry ... ..	22
Confectionery ...	2	Preserves ... ..	20
Corned Beef ...	22	Sausages ... ..	111
Tinned Fish ...	27	Semolina ... ..	60
Wet Fish ... ..	35	Suet ... ..	21
Tinned Fruit ...	206	Tinned Veg. ...	40
Tinned Ham ...	150	Miscellaneous ...	22

**Total ... 1,044 lbs.**

The food was disposed of either by burial at the Council tip or diverted where suitable to the Council pig food scheme.

## Food Hygiene

The number of premises totalling 176 where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:—

Hotels and licensed premises	...	...	...	42
Restaurants (including snack bars)	...	...	...	17
Works Canteens	...	...	...	7
School Canteens	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	15
Meat Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	2
Wet and Dried Fish Shops	...	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	...	12
Bread and Cake Confectioners	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	44
Greengrocers	...	...	...	14

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once.

Details regarding milk and ice cream appear under separate headings.

There is no registration of food premises under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, only registration of ice cream vendors under the Essex County Council Act, 1933.

Two hundred and twenty two visits to food premises were made during the year. In addition twenty-three visits under food byelaws, one hundred and twenty-eight inspections of food in shops and eighty-three inspections of food in local markets were carried out.

In several cases it was found necessary to issue warnings concerning lack of cleanliness and other unsatisfactory conditions.

The following shows defects required to be remedied during the year:—

	Found	Remedied
Inadequate supply of hot water ... ..	2	2
Internal decoration requiring cleansing and redecoration ... ..	4	2
Eradication of insect pests ... ..	2	2
Cleansing of fittings ... ..	1	1
Dirty condition of premises ... ..	1	1
Dirty condition of refuse area ... ..	1	1
Defective sanitary accommodation ... ..	1	2
External defects ... ..	—	1

Every effort has been made to maintain the interest in food hygiene among food handlers.

Following complaints by consumers of the finding of foreign bodies in a bottle of milk and in some cakes, the Council decided to send warning letters to the traders concerned.

### Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provisions of the above Act, relating to the sampling of food and drugs, are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following details of the samples taken during the year:—

Chocolate Spread	Milk Chocolate Almonds
Fruit Pudding	Milk Chocolate Piccadilly
Sultana Pudding	Assortment
Currants	Maltesers
Seedless Raisins	Cashew Kernels
Cake Fruit Mixture	(Milk Chocolate)
Table Cream	Jersey Caramels
Wine Jelly	Liquorice Allsorts
Pimento	Milk Sandwich
Aspic Jelly Powder	Hand-Made Sweets
Drinking Chocolate	Butter Flavoured Marzipan
Lemonade Powder	Toffee Pieces
Ice Cream Mix	Butter Flavoured Nuts
Tomato Juice	Golden Mints
	Milk Chocolate
	Fruit and Nut Chocolate

All the above samples were found to be genuine.

35 Milk Samples, 10 samples deficient in fat.

This figure includes Appeal to Cow samples which were taken and showed a deficiency in milk fat. The producer was informed and subsequent samples taken proved to be satisfactory.

All the other samples were found to be genuine.







